

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus for forming images on a recording medium, comprising:

a movable member having flexibility;

5 a detection section for detecting temperature of the movable member directly or indirectly; and

a control section for executing control so that when image forming is not conducted, the movable member is temporarily operated at predefined intervals if a temperature detected by the detection section is equal to or above a specified temperature, and the movable member is not operated if a temperature detected by the detection section is below the specified temperature.

2. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the predefined intervals are changed depending on the temperature detected by the detection section.

3. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein operating time of the movable member that is temporarily operated is changed depending on the temperature detected by the detection section.

4. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the detection section detects the temperature of the movable member indirectly from an inside temperature of the apparatus.

5. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the detection section detects the temperature of the movable member indirectly from an image printing mode.

6. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control section temporarily operates the movable member immediately after the temperature detected by the detection section becomes equal to or above a specified temperature.

7. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control section temporarily operates the movable member once the temperature detected by the detection section becomes and stays equal to or above a specified temperature for not less than predefined consecutive time.

8. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the control section temporarily operates the movable member once a duration of time during which the temperature detected by the detection section becomes and stays equal to or above a specified temperature amounts to not less than predefined time.

9. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the movable member is an endless belt hung over at least two rollers.

10. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein the endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

11. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein the endless belt is a fixing belt.

12. The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the movable member is an electrically-charging member.

13. A method for controlling an image forming apparatus including a movable member having flexibility, comprising:

a step 1 for detecting a temperature of the movable member directly or indirectly when the image forming apparatus is not under image forming operation; and

a step 2 for executing control so that the movable member is temporarily operated at predefined intervals if the temperature detected in the step 1 is equal to or above a specified temperature, and the movable member is not operated if the detected temperature is below the specified temperature.

14. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the predefined intervals in the step 2 are changed depending on the temperature detected in the step 1.

15. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein operating time of the movable member that is temporarily

operated in the step 2 is changed depending on the temperature detected in the step 1.

16. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein in the step 2, the movable member is temporarily operated immediately after the temperature detected in the step 1 becomes equal to or above a specified temperature.

17. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein in the step 2, the movable member is temporarily operated once the temperature detected in the step 1 becomes and stays equal to or above the specified temperature for not less than predefined consecutive time.

18. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein in the step 2, the movable member is temporarily operated once a duration of time during which the temperature detected in the step 1 becomes and stays equal to or above a specified temperature amounts to not less than specified time.

19. The method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the movable member is an endless belt hung over at least two rollers.

20. The method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.